

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17 (Original). A wound dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core containing discrete portions of at least one absorbent material, said absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, and border and central portions along the distal surface thereof; and

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer connected to the absorbent core, said backing layer having at least one compliant element disassociated from the absorbent core.

18 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the discrete portions of absorbent material are enmeshed in the absorbent core.

19 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 18, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of hydrocolloids, hydrogels and hydrophilic polymers.

20 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the backing layer is secured to the border portion of the absorbent core.

21 (Previously Presented). A wound dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core containing discrete portions of at least one absorbent material, said absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, and border and central portions along the distal surface thereof;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer connected to the absorbent core, said backing layer being permanently secured to the absorbent core along the peripheral edges of the absorbent core;

wherein the backing layer is attached to the central portion of the absorbent core when the wound dressing is substantially devoid of moisture, the backing layer is configured to disassociate from the central portion of the absorbent core when the wound dressing has absorbed a quantity of moisture.